

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4132

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0705

TAGS: PFOR, US, SF

SUBJECT: US VISIT OF SOUTH AFRICAN ADMIRAL JOHNSON

REF: STATE 238383 CAPE TOWN 704 NOTAL

LUSAKA ALSO FOR ASST SECTY EASUM

1. TODAY'S SOUTH AFRICA-WIDE SUNDAY TIMES HAS FULL-SPREAD
BANNER HEADLINE: "U.S. INVITES NAVY CHIEF," WITH SUBHEAD,
"JOHNSON'S VISIT SEEN AS DEFENCE TIE." ARTICLE BY RICHARD
WALKER WITH WASHINGTON DATELINE SATURDAY CITES "UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT SOURCES" AS EXPECTING JOHNSON TO ASK FOR MORE
PORT CALLS AND PRESS SA NEED FOR RECON AIRCRAFT. ACCOMPANYING
PHOTO OF JOHNSON SAYS HE IS EXPECTED TO ASK FOR RELAXATION OF
ARMS EMBARGO. WHILE TEXT NOTES INVITATION IS FOR PRIVATE
DISCUSSIONS AND LATER THAT IT CAME FROM CONGRESSMAN WYMAN,
STRONG IMPLICATION IS THAT INVITATION FOR PRIVATE TALKS MUST
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HAVE USG APPROVAL. PAPER STATES THAT DECISION TO GRANT VISA

"WILL BE REGARDED AS KEY INDICATION OF AMERICAN POLICY..."

2. PERMISSION TO PUBLISH STORY OBVIOUSLY CAME FROM SAG DEFENSE MINISTER P.W. BOTHA HO CONFIRMED INVITATION WITH NO OTHER COMMENT.

3. FULL VERBATION TEXT FOLLOWS:

"U.S. INVITES NAVY CHIEF

"JOHNSON'S VISIT SEEN AS DEFENCE TIE

"BY RICHARD WALKER

"WASHINGTON, SATURDAY

"THE CHIEF OF SOUTH AFRICA'S NAVY, VICE-ADMIRAL JAMES JOHNSON, HAS BEEN INVITED TO THE UNITED STATES THIS MONTH FOR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS, AMERICAN SOURCES REPORT.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, MR P.W. BOTHA, CONFIRMED LAST NIGHT THAT THE INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED. HE HAD NO FURTHER COMMENT TO MAKE.

ADMIRAL JOHNSON IS EXPECTED TO PRESS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN STRENGTHENED WESTERN DEFENCES OF THE CAPE SEA ROUTES AND A RELAXING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SOURCES TOLD THE SUNDAY TIMES THAT THEY EXPECTED ADMIRAL JOHNSON TO MAKE A SPECIAL PLEA FOR MORE PORT CALLS BY NAVAL VESSELS AND TO EMPHASISE SOUTH AFRICA'S NEED FOR MODERN RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT.

THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL HAS BEEN TOLD THAT ADMIRAL JOHNSON WILL BE IN THE UNITED STATES FOR A WEEK.

HIS VISIT IS EXPECTED TO SPARK A CONTROVERSY IN THE UNITED STATES. A TOP AMERICAN COLUMNIST, JACK ANDERSON, WHO IS PUBLISHING A REPORT ON THE VISIT, SAID THE INVITATION CAME FROM MR LOUIS WYMAN, THE NEW HAMPSHIRE REPUBLICAN WHO HELPED ARRANGE THE MEETING BETWEEN THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, DR CONNIE MULDER, AND VICE-ADMIRAL RAYMOND, PEET, HEAD OF THE PENTAGON'S POWERFUL OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.

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MR WYMAN IS ALSO A MEMBER OF AN IMPORTANT HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE APPROPRIATIONS AND A MAN WITH GREAT INFLUENCE AMONG MILITARY AND NAVAL CHIEFS.

THE VISIT IS REGARDED AS IMPORTANT IN THE FAST-DEVELOPING ARGUMENT OVER THE STRATEGIC NEEDS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND OVER THE CAPE SEAS.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE KNOWN FOR TWO WEEKS OF THE UNPUBLISHED, PRIVATELY SPONSORED EXPEDITION WHICH COULD BE CHALLENGED AS BEING CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE OFFICIAL UNITED STATES ARMS EMBARGO ON SOUTH AFRICA.

THUS THE DECISION WHETHER TO GRANT A VISA WILL BE REGARDED AS A KEY INDICATION OF AMERICAN POLICY, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE USE BY THE UNITED STATES OF ITS VETO THIS WEEK TO HELP KEEP SOUTH AFRICA IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

IN MAY THE STATE DEPARTMENT REFUSED THE CHIEF OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENCE FORCE, ADMIRAL H.H. BIERMANN, A VISA, BUT THEN RELENDED. AMERICAN SOURCES CLAIM THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE, DR HENRY KISSINGER, PHONED FROM THE MIDDLE EAST TO GIVE ORDERS TO GRANT THE VISA.

MINUTES BEFORE HELPING TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA IN THE UN THIS WEEK, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE WORLD ORGANIZATION MO NOMN SCA

LI, SAID:

LBTTHE UNITED STATES HAS NOT COLLABORATED WITH SOUTH AFRICA ON MILITARY OR NAVAL MATTERS FOR OVER A DECADE, AND HAS NO INTENTION OF BEGINNING SUCH CO-OPERATION IN THE FUTURE."

HOWEVER, IN SPITE OF THE ABSENCE OF OFFICIAL LINKS, SOUTH AFRICA IS KNOWN TO HAVE A Foothold IN THE PENTAGON BECAUSE OF THE SILVERMINE RADAR COMPLEX IN THE CAPE WHICH CAN SWEEP THE OCEAN FROM SOUTH AMERICA TO ANTARCTICA TO BANGLADESH AND RELAY THE POSITIONS OF SHIPS ACROSS THE WORLD IN SECONDS.

A 30-PAGE PAMPHLET BY ADMIRAL BIERMANN ON "POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRATEGY" HAS BEEN CIRCULATING AMONG LEADING AMERICAN UNCLASSIFIED

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POLITICIANS AND MILITARY MEN. IN IT ADMIRAL BIERMANN CLAIMS THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS NOW THE FRONT LINE AGAINST THE "GREAT TIDE" OF COMMUNISM.

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SAPA-REUTER REPORTS FROM DAR-ES-SALAAM: THE UNITED STATES ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICA, MR DONALD EASUM, SAID YESTERDAY. "THE ISOLATION OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL NOT BE AS EFFECTIVE AS MAINTAINING COMMUNICATIONS AND DIALOGUE.

"THIS IS THE UNITED STATES' VIEW, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE USING OUR INFLUENCE TO FOSTER CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

"WE SINCERELY BELIEVE OUR TACTICS ARE THE BEST WAY THE UNITED

STATES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE REALISATION OF THE OBJECTIVE
WE ALL SHARE - DIGNITY AND FREEDOM FOR ALL RACES IN AFRICA."

MR EASUM WAS SEEKING TO JUSTIFY HIS COUNTRY'S JOINT SECURITY
COUNCIL VETO WITH BRITAIN AND FRANCE PREVENTING SOUTH AFRICA'S
EXPULSION FROM THE UNITED NATIONS.
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